

**PROJECT:** Northeast Community Plan      RHI #: 52091

**SUBJECT:** Advisory Group Kick-off Meeting      PAGES: 2

**DATE/TIME:** September 3, 2020 at 6:30PM

**MEETING LOCATION:** Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

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## I. Introductions

- Town of Wake Forest
  - Michelle Michael, Planner and Project Manager
  - Dylan Bruchhaus, Planner
  - Adam Oates, Director of Information Technology
- Advisory Group
  - Jolene Woods, National Alumni Association of DuBois High School
  - En'Janet Joseph, Northeast Community Coalition (NECC)
  - Tilda Caudle, Northeast Community Coalition (NECC)
  - Joy Shillingsburg, NECC/Episcopal Church Outreach/Summer Nutrition
  - Garrett Bryant, Alston Massenburg Center
  - JuJuan Mitchell, NECC
  - Ella Batten, NE Community Resident
  - Reggie Lucas, Wake Forest Coach and Teacher
  - Margo Grant, Jobs for Life/Hope House (Friendship Chapel Baptist Church)
  - Yvette Holmes, DHIC (Raleigh-based Non-Profit for Affordable Housing)
- Consultant Team
  - Deana Rhodeside (RHI), Planner and Project Director
  - Sukirti Ghosh (RHI), Urban Designer and Project Manager
  - Simone Robinson (P3), Community Engagement

## II. Northeast Community Project

- *NE Community Plan Project Overview*
  - Project team introduced
    - RHI – Lead, Planning and Community Engagement
    - P3 – Community Engagement
    - RKG – Market and Economic Development
    - Timmons – Transportation and Connectivity
  - Discussed plan purpose and schedule
  - Accomplishments to date: website created; address: <https://www.wakeforestnc.gov/northeast-community-plan>
1. *Advisory Group (AG) Overview (RHI Team via slide presentation)*
    - Discussed roles and responsibilities as well as meeting schedule (*see Schedule on Website*)
  2. *Community Kickoff*
    - Discussed several community outreach methods
      - Postcard mailers, door hangers, public space posters, notices at churches, reach out via residents' phone numbers, social media posts, flyers, website, virtual/online platforms, etc.
      - Share a call-in number for residents to call-in and share comments/thoughts/feedback – Town is checking the logistics of setting up the number.

- Check the community demographics regarding Spanish and/or other language translation for notices/flyers etc.
- Phone Messaging to share announcements

**3. Stakeholder Group Creation**

- Shared a preliminary list of stakeholders with Committee Members.
- Additional stakeholders to consider:
  - Raleigh Dream Center (food distribution)
  - Wake County Commissioners
  - Local employers – the Town has already reached out to few and will explore reaching out to additional employers.
  - Youth
- Schedule/timing of first set of interviews tentatively scheduled for last week of September 2020

**4. Northeast Community Group Discussion**

- Issues and Opportunities
  - Community changing due to gentrification
  - Growth happening – new residents are moving in
  - Improve connectivity (sidewalks) and provide for better transportation needs; there have been some upgrades to sidewalks in the community (eg, Juniper Street was repaved few months back)
  - Safety and lighting – the Town has improved lighting but better street lights needed in the neighborhood areas
  - Implementation items after 2007 plan – formalized a coalition (NECC) to lead neighborhood revitalization; overall beautification items implemented but the beautification group (volunteers) has now disbanded
  - Need improved food security
  - Provide additional housing
  - Provide more skilled training and offer youth programs; keep youth in mind – involve them in stakeholder discussions
  - Explore feasibility of providing a grocery store
  - Provide jobs and better access to jobs
  - Restore the gymnasium to basic level before securing funding for a new gym
  - Provide affordable housing
  - Explore big activities such as carnivals or festivals in the community
  - Restart the tutoring program
- Success Measures of the Plan
  - Engender spirit of involvement
  - Residents should feel proud to be here and wanting to do more
  - People need to see the change; reach out for help
  - There is a sense that someone is listening – reach out to get input from residents
  - Identify needs to be redone to make the community look better
  - Understand the history of the Community and celebrate it

**5. Next Steps**

- Request members for community photos for the project website
- Create draft Public Involvement Plan
- Schedule Stakeholder Meetings
- Project Kick-Off: Site Visit and Introductory Outreach
- Prepare Existing Conditions Analysis
- Next AG Meeting: To be determined shortly